

Trap Checking Requirements

- **Dry land and non-drowning sets:** You must check at least once each day and remove any captured animal from the set.
- **Open water drowning sets:** You must check within a 4 day period following the last tending of the set and remove any captured animal from the set. You must monitor water levels to ensure effective drowning sets.
- **Sets made under ice:** There is no mandated trap checking period.

Trapping Hours

- Legal trapping hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. DST).

License and Permit Information

1. **Residency:** You must be a Wisconsin resident to purchase a Wisconsin trapping license. Nonresidents are not eligible. **Cost:** \$15.00 (See also “**Trapper Education**” inside.)
 2. **Duplicates:** You can acquire a duplicate trapping license if you provide an affidavit proving the loss of the original license.
 3. **Use: You may not:**
 - transfer your license, permit or tag, or allow its use by anyone else.
 - carry any trapping license, permit or tag issued to anyone else.
 - obtain a trapping license, permit or tag for someone else.
 4. **Purchasing Fur:** You must possess a Fur Dealers License or DNR permit to purchase fur.
 5. **Animals Causing Damage:** During the closed season, a DNR permit may be required to remove nuisance animals. Contact your nearest wildlife manager or nearest DNR office for details.
 6. **Landowner Provisions:** The owner or occupant of any land, and family members, *do not need a license to:*
 - trap beaver, foxes, raccoon, woodchucks, rabbits and squirrels on the land year-round. All other restrictions apply. (See “**Beaver Damage Control**” on inside panel for more information.)
 - live trap with box traps beaver, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels on the land at any time in cities, villages or other areas where the discharge of firearms is unlawful. Live trapped animals must be either killed or released after capture.
- Special Regulations**
Bobcat, Fisher and Otter
- Permits and Tags**
- You may not:*
- trap or attempt to trap any bobcat, fisher or other unless you possess special DNR permits and tags:



1. Permit and tag applications (Form 9400-478) are available from DNR offices or the Information Center in Madison starting in early August. Mail applications, with the \$3.00 application fee per species, to the DNR License Section, Box 7924, Madison, WI 53707. Applications must be postmarked no later than Sept. 10 or received in person at the DNR Information Center, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, by that same date.
2. You must possess your valid license, permit and tags while trapping.
- possess or have under control any bobcat, fisher or other unless you immediately attach and seal a valid pelt tag through the opening of the animal's mouth to the opening of its eye, immediately beneath the skin. The pelt tag shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation.

Registration

- You may not:*
- transfer, give, trade, sell, or purchase any bobcat, fisher or other pelt unless it bears a DNR registration tag attached by an authorized DNR representative.
 - possess fisher, bobcat, or other pelts *later than 5 days after the established season closes* without registering the pelt(s) with an authorized DNR representative. Bobcat must be registered in the county where trapped or an adjoining county.

You must skin bobcat, fisher and otter and separate the pelt from the carcass before registering the pelts at designated DNR stations. In addition, you must present the bobcat and fisher carcasses when pelts are registered; the DNR retains the carcasses for research purposes. Station locations vary. Watch for newspaper notices prior to the season or contact your nearest DNR office.

Methods

All live furbearing animals taken during the open season for such species shall be killed immediately and made part of the daily bag. It is unlawful to keep such animals alive after their capture, unless you have first obtained the DNR permit or license that permits their possession.

Elevated traps are legal for furbearers as long as the sight exposed bait law is followed.

- You may not:*
- place a trap, snare, bait or scent for furbearing animals during the closed season.
 - set any trap or snare unless a metal tag is attached, stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address of the owner. Heavy-duty stamped tags are desirable.
 - take or attempt to take beaver, fisher, mink, muskrat or other by any means other than trapping or snaring.
 - possess any trap for the purpose of catching furbearing animals other than a steel-jawed trap, live trap or snare.

Such traps shall be constructed so that not more than one animal can be taken or captured.

- *molest or take someone elses traps, snares or trapped animals.*
- operate more than 75 traps or snares in any combination.

Trap Theft: Stealing or molesting traps or snares is a criminal act and is punishable by fine (\$300-\$1,000), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or both, and a mandatory 5-year revocation of license.

- disturb or molest any mink den, muskrat house, muskrat feeding house or beaver dam.
- place on the ice, any artificial house or den for the purpose of catching any furbearing animals.

Size and Placement Restrictions

Definitions: (1) *Wet set or waterset* means a trap which is set or staked in a manner to permit the trap or trapped animal to reach water at any point. (2) *Dry set* means a trap set or staked to be completely on dry land with no possibility of the trap or trapped animal to reach water. (3) *Sight exposed bait* means any bait which can be seen from above the bait. (4) *Capable of drowning* means a set designed to allow the trapped animal to travel to water of sufficient depth to cause drowning. Slide wires or poles, locking devices, slip chains, weighted traps and traps staked in deep water are commonly used in drowning sets.

The WTA and the DNR would like to remind trappers of the importance of considering all set placement to avoid contact with humans and domestic animals. We strongly encourage the use of cubbys and elevated sets when using conibear type traps on dry land.

You may not:

- set, place or operate any *waterset* smaller than 5 and 1/2 inch jaw spread for steel-jawed traps and 6 and 3/4 inch x 6 and 3/4 inch for killer traps (conibear type) during the beaver and otter seasons, *except* when the muskrat/mink season is open in the zone you are trapping.
 - set, place or operate any steel-jawed trap with a spread width of more than 8 inches.
 - operate trap sets which permit the trapped animal to reach water, except when the muskrat, beaver or other trapping season is open in the zone you are trapping.
 - set any trap for birds on any perch more than 3 feet above the ground.
 - set any trap or snare closer than 15 feet from any beaver dam. (Landowners see “**Beaver Damage Control**” on inside panel).
 - set, place or operate any killer trap (conibear type) that is larger than 7 x 7 inches *unless one-half of the trap is located underwater at all times.*
 - set, place, or operate any snare regardless of the noose size, *unless one-half of the snare noose is located underwater at all times.*
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